THE NEW
# INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY • MAY 18, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

## ALL GREEN CARD PETITIONS TO GET PROCESSED IN 6 MONTHS?

**An advisory panel has voted to recommend the US president that all green card applications be processed in six months**

**WILL PUSH FOR STREAMLINING OF PROCESS**

The President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (PACAANHPI) has recommended that the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) remove redundant steps, introduce automation wherever possible and improve its internal dashboards and reporting systems to speed up the process

**COULD BENEFIT THOUSANDS OF INDIANS**

- Additionally, the panel will recommend that the National Visa Center, which schedules and conducts visa interviews, double its human resource capacity over the next three months
- The proposals, if adopted, may benefit thousands of Indians, some of whom have been waiting for decades to get green card

**4,21,358**

**PENDING INTERVIEWS IN APRIL. ONLY 65K FAMILY GREEN CARDS IS SUED IN 2021**

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

# Protect 'Linga', let Muslims free entry to pray: SC

Advocate commissioner leading survey of Gyanvapi sacked; 2 more days to file report

PRATHMA SHARMA AND NAMITA BAJPAI @ New Delhi/Lucknow

The Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi that is in the eye of a storm | PTI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday directed that the area where a 'Shivalinga' was indicated to have been found in the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi a day ago should be fully protected, but the rights of Muslims to enter and offer prayers must not be infringed.

The court was hearing a petition challenging a Allahabad High Court order that had permitted the inspection and videography of the premises.

"In order to obviate any dispute on the meaning and content of the order of the trial judge, the operation and ambit of the order dated 16 May 2022 shall stand restricted to the extent that the District Magistrate, Varanasi shall ensure that the area where the Shivalinga is stated to have been found, as indicated in the order, shall be duly protected. The above direction shall not in any manner restrain or impede the access of Muslims to the mosque or the use of the mosque for the purpose of performing *namaz* and religious observance," a bench led by Justice D Y Chandrachud said in its interim order.

Senior advocate Hufeza Ahmadi, appearing for the Anjuman Islamia Masjid Committee, sought a stay in the trial court's proceedings in Varanasi. "The order (to seal the *wuzu khana* where the Shivalinga was said to have been found) was passed ex-parte without serving to us...What was the tearing hurry the way the premises was sealed?" he asked. However, the bench refused to issue a stay order.

The court issued notices to the petitioners and the UP government and posted the matter for next hearing on May 19.

In Varanasi, trial court judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar sacked his court-appointed advocate commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra for engaging a private cameraman for the Gyanvapi survey who went about leaking information to the media in flagrant violation of the confidentiality mandate. It was special advocate commissioner Vishal Singh who outed Mishra's lensman R P Singh leaking the survey's proceedings. Singh has now been tasked with submitting the survey report and granted two days to do so.

# Cosmetic surgery to remove fat kills 21-yr-old actress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 21-year-old Kannada TV actor, **Chethana Raj**, died while undergoing a cosmetic liposuction, or fat removal, procedure in Bengaluru on Monday evening. Chethana, who was operated at a private hospital at Rajajinagar in Bengaluru earlier in the day, allegedly developed complications the same evening. Her family alleged that Chethana died because of negligence by doctors at Dr Shetty's Cosmetic Centre where she underwent the procedure.

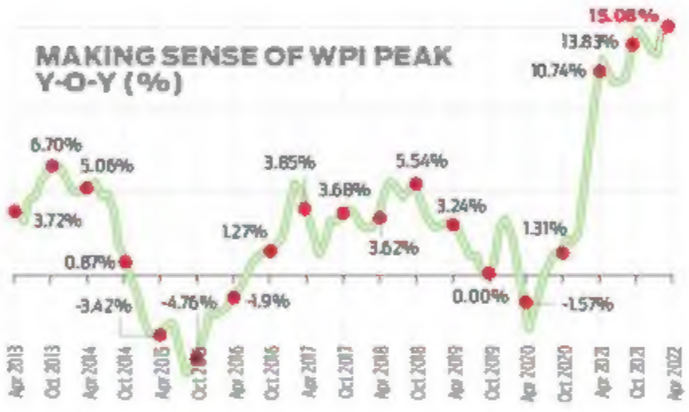
Based on a complaint filed by Chethana's father Varadaraju, the Subramanyanagar police registered a case. The actress, a resident of Chikkabanavara, had acted in some TV serials. Her father, a businessman, stated in the complaint that Chethana went to the cosmetic centre with her friend without informing her parents.

She had gained some weight around the waist and she was allegedly advised to undergo the liposuction surgery, her father stated. Chethana went through the procedure and the same evening, she developed breathing difficulties, as, it is said, fluid had accumulated in her lungs. But as the centre does not have an ICU, she was shifted to another hospital in Manjunath Nagar, where she was declared brought dead. The hospital informed the police that she had suffered a cardiac arrest.

Her father alleged the hospital did not take the consent from parents before the surgery and demanded action against Dr Sahebgowda Shetty who owns the clinic, the investigating officer said. "An FIR has been registered," he said. P3

# WHOLESALE INFLATION AT RECORD HIGH OF 15%

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi




INDIA'S wholesale price-based inflation jumped to an all-time high of 15.08% due to across-the-board rise in prices, including those of food and fuel.

Continuous high inflation — both retail and wholesale — would further put pressure on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to hike interest rates in its June monetary policy.

The WPI inflation has been in double digits perpetually for the last 13 months. Overall inflation in food articles was recorded at 8.35%. In the food basket, the highest inflation was observed in the items like vegetables, potato, fruits and wheat at 23.24%, 19.84%, 10.89% and 10.70%, respectively. Crude petroleum and natural gas rose by 69.07% year-on-year, while petrol witnessed a surge in prices by 60.63%. In the fuel and power baskets, inflation stood at 38.66%, whereas in manufactured products it was 10.85% and oil seeds 16.10%.

Also, core inflation accelerated for the third consecutive month to 11.1% from 10.9% in March 2022. "We see June's policy to be super-live, and the monetary policy committee may frontload rates by another 25-50 basis points. FY23 could further see rates going up by 100-125 basis points, with RBI showing its intent to keep real rates above neutral," said Madhavi Arora, lead economist at Emkay Global Financial Services.

Just a few days ago, retail inflation data registered an eight-year high at 7.79% in April. In a bid to tame inflation, the RBI this month raised the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.4% and cash reserve ratio by 0.5%.

Days after the Union commerce ministry banned wheat exports, on Tuesday it gave some relaxation to consignments registered with the customs on or before May 13. It also allowed a wheat consignment headed for Egypt, which was already being loaded.

"The order served three main purposes: ensure India's food security and check inflation, it helps other countries facing food deficit, and it maintains India's reliability as a supplier. The order also aimed to provide a clear direction to the wheat market to prevent hoarding," the Centre said in a statement.

**Karti got ₹50 lakh from Vedanta Group: ED**

According to the FIR, Advantage Strategic Consulting, a company linked to Karti, got ₹50 lakh from the Vedanta Group to organise visas for 263 Chinese nationals in 2011, when P Chidambaram was Union home minister. The visas were meant to help expedite the delayed power project

A CBI official gestures to the media during a raid at former Union Minister P Chidambaram's residence in Chennai on Tuesday | R SATISH BABU

# CBI raids on PC, Karti in cash-for-visa case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

KEEPING up the pressure on senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram, the CBI on Tuesday raided and searched his son Karti's residence and office premises across nine cities, in a fresh case relating to alleged acceptance of ₹50 lakh bribe for facilitating visas for Chinese employees working for a power project in Punjab.

The raids were carried out at Chidambarams' properties in Chennai, Mumbai, Koppal (Karnataka), Mansa (Punjab) and Jharsuguda (Odisha). CBI sources said, even as the agency was wary of disclosing the nature of documents seized. Chidambaram's son Karti is alleged to have taken the bribe in 2011 for facilitating visas for about 300 Chinese employees working at the Talwandi Sabo Power Project in Punjab. A 1,980 MW thermal power project, the Talwandi Sabo plant is at Banawala in Mansa district.

This is the second time Karti has come under the CBI's scanner. He was previously probed in the Aircel-Maxis and the INX Media cases. Karti was arrested in 2018 in the INX Media case. This was followed a year later with the CBI arresting Chidambaram. According to the FIR, Karti accepted a gratification of ₹50 lakh for facilitating visas for the Chinese nationals. The money was allegedly sent to an account of one of Karti's companies to "devise a back door way to defeat the home ministry ceiling on visa".

# Heavy rain floods city, 2 flights diverted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

HEAVY rain coupled with thunder and lightning lashed the city on Tuesday evening leading to waterlogging in many localities, especially low-lying areas around Chandra Layout, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Jayamahal Road and South Bengaluru.

Metro train operations on the Green Line came to a standstill for 15 minutes. BMRCL MD Anjum Parwez said, "Our transformer on Peenya side tripped because of tripping of the KPTCL transformer on Puttenahalli side. It was restored later."

A spokesperson of the Bangalore International Airport Limited said, "Two Indigo flights, one from Rajahmundry (6E 7232) and another from Kolkata (6E 264) coming to Bengaluru, were diverted to the Chennai International Airport." CONTINUED ON: P2

A car stranded in Ulsoor following heavy rain which lashed Bengaluru on Tuesday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS

**Anti-Conversion Bill gets nod from Governor**

Bengaluru: Karnataka Governor **Thaawarchand Gehlot** on Tuesday gave his assent to the Anti-Conversion Bill. With this, the law to check forcible conversions comes into effect in the State amid opposition. A person who wishes to convert to another faith must give a declaration at least 30 days in advance to the District Magistrate | P4

# BDA chief's PS gets more salary than boss

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IRONIC, but true. Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) chairman's personal secretary draws a salary of Rs 3,12,002 per month, which is more than that of the commissioner and chairman. The BDA chairman draws Rs 1,26,647 per month, while the commissioner gets Rs 1,34,113, said Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Karnataka Administrative Service officer K Mathai on Tuesday.

Mathai, who retired as a special land acquisition officer, said that he has written to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai as the secretary's appointment and salary are a violation of rules of the BDA and state government.

"The personal secretary, Somashekhar, a former Rajya Sabha employee, should be suspended immediately and a suitable person appointed. The salary should be paid as per rules. The loss incurred by BDA through such expensive salaries should be reimbursed by officials who are involved. Otherwise, AAP will hold a demonstration in front of Vidhana Soudha," he warned.

The secretary's post comes with the KAS junior pay scale, and for someone not from KAS, the salary should be Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 per month, he said. CONTINUED ON: P2

SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN
SAAT-2022
Empowering students for a brighter future
APPROVAL & RECOGNITIONS
Approved by UGC & AICTE
Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade
Accredited by NBA
Ranked in QS World Rankings 2022
MHRD India Rankings (NIRF) 2021
20th Best in University Category
32nd Best in Engineering Category
B.Tech Programmes Offered
Civil Engineering
Computer Science & Engineering
Computer Science & Information Technology
Electronics & Communication Engineering
Electrical & Electronics Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
To apply for admission through SAAT, Please visit : www.soa.ac.in

Fresh to home
FRESH OR FREE*
If Your Order Isn't 100% Fresh, We'll Give Your Money Back*.
Goat (Curry cut) 500g + Chicken (Curry cut) 500g
Code: 499GC
₹499*
Mathi / Sardine 500g ₹135*
Lamb (Curry cut) 500g ₹399*
Tandoori Baasa (Boneless) 250g ₹225*
100+ Quality Checks
Vacuum Sealed For Freshness
Sourced From Dedicated Farmers & Fisherman
No Antibiotic Residue
No Added Chemicals
We deliver in: Bangalore | Mangalore | Mysore | Mandya | Nagamangala | Tumkur | Sakleshpur | Hassan | Chikkamagaluru
Order online at: Freshtohome.com
90 Minute Delivery
*T&C Apply. All prices are inclusive of taxes. Offers valid only for today and till stocks last.
*T&C Apply. Money back will be credited as FreshCash. Refer website for more details. Images used are for representative purposes only and may differ from the actual products. FreshToHome is only a brand name or trade mark and does not represent its true nature.